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[2016.05.02-05.06 Flint Michigan clips.xlsx](#)  
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**Subject:** Flint Readout 05/05/16

[Watch President Obama Meet the 8-Year-Old Who Brought Him to Flint](#)

By Julia Zorthian, TIME 05/05/16 3:36 PM

Eight-year-old Amariyanna Copeny knew it was a long-shot when she wrote to President Barack Obama and asked him to visit her town of Flint, Michigan, since the devastating water crisis afflicted the city. But the president accepted the invitation from Copeny (who is more widely known as “Little Miss Flint”) and thanked her for the letter in person. The White House posted footage of their hug on Thursday afternoon.

[President Obama vows to make 'every drop of water' to Flint homes safe](#)

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 05/05/16 1:06 PM

President Obama made a vow to people filling the Northwestern High School gymnasium and tens of thousands others across the city that every drop of water in the city flowing to Flint homes would be safe. He called the need for clean water part of the "basic government responsibility" and said he wants to make sure it's safe to drink, cook and bathe in.

### 30 photos that define Obama's historic visit amidst Flint water crisis

By Jake May, MLIVE 05/05/16 8:54 AM

A few saw him soar in on Air Force One at Bishop International Airport. Some lined the streets just trying to catch a glimpse. Others protested. Hundreds of people, waiting in the rain, while another 1,137 waited inside of Flint Northwestern's gymnasium to see and hear President Barack Obama speak about the city's water crisis. These 30 photos — shot by MLive photographers Rachel Woolf, Conor Ralph, Jeff Schrier and Jake May — define his time in Flint, and show not only Obama, but the people he met and how the city interacted during his historic visit.

### In Flint, Obama listens to Church of Christ minister's concerns

By Bobby Ross Jr., Christian Chronicle 05/05/16

Rigel Dawson, who preaches for the North Central Church of Christ, was one of nine people invited to join a roundtable discussion with the president. Obama visited the troubled Michigan community to assess the water crisis and discuss the federal response after receiving a letter from an 8-year-old girl named Mari Copeny, a Flint resident.

### Flint, Michigan, Water Contamination

CSPAN 05/04/16 [video clip]

President Obama spoke to reporters following a briefing by federal officials at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan on the response to water contamination in Flint, Michigan. He also took a sip from a glass of filtered Flint drinking water. [Dr. Lurie mentioned at 12:12]

### Read President Obama's Speech in Flint on Federal Response

By Katie Reilly, TIME 05/04/16

President Barack Obama visited Flint, Mich. on Wednesday for the first time since findings about the city's lead-contaminated water came to light. He met with federal officials who have been on the ground in the city, and he spoke to the community at large during a talk at Northwestern High School.

#### Obama reaffirms federal support for community in visit to Flint

By Lydia Murra & Lara Moehlman, Michigan Daily 05/04/16 8:39 PM

Standing before a crowd of more than 1,000 residents at Flint Northwestern High School on Wednesday afternoon, President Barack Obama reaffirmed federal support for the Flint community in the ongoing water crisis and eased mounting tensions surrounding the health of the city's children and the safety of its drinking water.

#### Obama hugs 'Little Miss Flint' during visit to city

By Steph Solis, USA Today 05/04/16 8:11 PM [video clip]

It was the quintessential "aw" moment in President Obama's visit to Flint. Amariyanna Copeny, the 8-year-old girl whose letter is credited with bringing President Obama to Flint, got her wish to meet the president Wednesday. When they met, he greeted her with a picture-perfect embrace. Obama made plans to visit Flint after receiving a letter from Copeny, a young activist who says she is commonly known.

#### Obama Reassures Flint, Michigan, Amid Water Crisis

By Cindy Saine, VOA 05/04/16 8:02 PM

President Barack Obama paid his first visit to Flint, Michigan since the contaminated water crisis began, delivering an upbeat address to some 1,000 residents at Flint Northwestern High School. Speaking to a warm and enthusiastic crowd, the president emphasized that it is crucial that every parent in Flint have their children tested for elevated lead levels. But he said the good news for families is, that even if there was exposure to lead, with the proper medical care, their children will be fine.

#### President Obama in Flint: "It's Not Enough Just to Fix the Water"

By Melanie Garunay, White House Blog 05/04/16 7:11 PM

President Obama traveled to Flint, Michigan to hear firsthand from the residents whose lives have been affected by the public health crisis and deliver this message to the Flint community: "I've got your back." First, in a meeting with federal responders, the President spoke about the federal efforts in place to ensure clean drinking water for Flint residents.

#### Obama drinks water in Flint, Michigan; crowd boos governor

By Dave Boyer, Washington Times 05/04/16

President Obama made a public show of drinking filtered water in Flint, Michigan, Wednesday to prove it's safe, but he couldn't find a drop to drink later during a speech marred by a coughing fit. "Can I get some water?" Mr. Obama asked aides from the podium at a high school in Flint, after struggling through his prepared speech with persistent coughing. "I want a glass of water. I'm alright. It'll be filtered."

#### White House explains Obama's remarks on lead exposure

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 05/05/16 5:41 PM

The White House on Thursday further explained President Barack Obama's comments made a day earlier in Flint that he, too, likely was exposed to lead as a child, saying they were clearly intended to convey that Flint's children won't suffer lasting consequences if they receive the proper support. During the hour-long speech, Obama -- making his first visit to Flint since declaring an emergency there in January -- noted that it wasn't until the 1980s that lead in paint and gasoline was banned, and that, "if you are my age, or older ... you got some lead in your system when you were growing up."

#### Obama and Snyder to Flint: Drink filtered water and be patient

Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 05/05/16 5:26 PM

Despite reports about snubs and conflict, President Barack Obama visited Flint on Wednesday and delivered messages remarkably similar to those Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has promoted -- drink filtered water, flush your pipes, and while the replacement of lead service lines is important, be patient for a process that will likely take years. While not diminishing the enormity of the Flint public health catastrophe, Obama also stressed -- in terms much more forceful than

Snyder has -- that the vast majority of Flint children should be free of harm from exposure to lead in the city's drinking water, provided they receive proper medical attention and parental care.

#### Flint Water Crisis: Wake-up Call for the Country

By Fron Nahzi, Huffington Post 05/05/16 5:09 PM

President Obama's visit to Flint, Michigan this week draws public attention to the nation's water crisis. It is an opportunity to set in motion desperately needed reforms and place the water crisis exactly where it belongs: at center stage in the upcoming presidential campaign.

#### Flint mayor at odds with Obama over safety of all drinking water

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 05/05/16 4:06 PM

Despite President Barack Obama's belief that filtered Flint water is safe to drink, Mayor Karen Weaver says some tap water is still not safe to drink even with a filter. Obama on Wednesday said Flint water is safe if it goes through a filter. Telling reporters it was not a stunt, Obama drank filtered Flint water during a stop at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Obama said he understands people's fear and concern over the water but said government scientists have assured him the filtered water is safe for anyone over age 6 and not pregnant.

#### Rick Snyder says Obama drinking Flint water will help rebuild trust

By Bill Emkow, Detroit Free Press 05/05/16 3:25 PM

Rick Snyder wants to turn the page on the Flint water crisis. On MSNBC's Morning Joe, the governor repeatedly said he no longer wants to focus on what led to lead leaching into the water. Instead he wants to work on finding solutions. "There are multiple investigations that have happened, and are happening, to look at the past," he said. "And I'm cooperating with all of those, I hope everyone is, because let's get to the bottom of that, but at the same time, the important thing is, how do we get better water supplies, how do we help the people of Flint?"

#### Obama's Flint visit boosted morale – but it doesn't make the water safe to drink

By Oliver Milman, The Guardian 05/05/16 2:39 PM

Four months after he declared a state of emergency in Flint over its toxic water crisis, Barack Obama's first visit to the Michigan city was as much about repudiating the philosophy of shrunken, hands-off government as it was about the lead-laced liquid that residents still have to drink and bathe in. The president's address to a restive crowd he called "feisty" included an obligatory sip of Flint water. "This isn't a stunt," Obama insisted, while stressing that people could drink the water, if it is properly filtered.

#### Hi, My Heart Has Exploded Watching This Video of President Obama Meeting Little Miss Flint

By Kara Brown, Jezebel 05/05/16 2:15 PM [video clip]

We all know President Barack Obama is good with kids, but my god, is this man is trying to kill me with his unmatched adorableness when interacting with our nation's youth? After receiving an invite from an eight year-old activist Mari Copeny, President Obama visited Flint, Michigan to discuss the water crisis in the area. Yesterday we were treated to a photo of their absurdly cute meeting, and today there's video.

#### 'Flint water crisis: US taxpayers will pay for government screw up'

By RT 05/05/16 1:51 PM

The health risks to residents of Flint, Michigan, where thousands of people consumed locally supplied lead-tainted water, could have been avoided if the government took warnings seriously, Carla Howell of the National Libertarian Party told RT. US President Barack Obama visited Flint, Michigan on Wednesday to discuss the water pollution crisis. To reassure people that supplies are safe to drink, Obama took a sip of local water. Since 2014, dangerous levels of lead have been detected in the city's drinking water coming from the Flint River. Citizens of the city and activists are trying to attract the federal government's attention in order to bring local officials to account. However, no action has been taken so far.

#### Michigan Gov. Snyder: I'm Staying to Solve Flint Water Issues

By Sandy Fitzgerald, Newsmax 05/05/16 1:27 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said Thursday he hasn't heeded calls to step down from office due to the Flint water crisis because he believes it's more important to "take responsibility," and that his answer to dealing with the problem is to stay and solve it instead of walking away. "I appreciate people being angry and frustrated by the situation," the Republican governor, who welcomed President Barack Obama to speak and drink filtered water from Flint's municipal water supply, told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program. "I want to compliment the president," Snyder said. "I

think it was very helpful having him come to Flint and reinforce a very similar message in the fact that filtered water is now safe to drink for most people."

#### Some Flint residents left wanting more after Obama visit on water crisis

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 05/05/16 1:02 PM

LuLu Brezzell wanted to hear more from the Commander-in-Chief during his speech in front of more than 1,100 people at Northwestern High School in Flint. Brezzell is the mother of 8-year-old Amariyanna Copeny, the girl whose letter about the water crisis drew Obama to Flint for a discussion with residents and officials about what's taking place in the city and what steps can be taken to resolve the problem.

#### Obama to Congress on Flint aid: #Doyourjob

By Eric Wolff, Politico 05/05/16 10:30 AM

On a trip focused on letting Flint residents know they have not been forgotten, President Barack Obama put pressure on Congress to move a bill that would bring aid to Flint, Mich. and other communities at risk of lead contamination in their water systems.

#### President Obama Visits Flint, Drinks the Water and Tells Residents 'I've Got Your Back', But Is That Enough?

By David Love, Atlanta Blackstar 05/05/16

President Barack Obama went to Flint — and he drank the water. As promised, on Wednesday the president arrived in the depressed Michigan city, whose residents have been poisoned by lead-tainted drinking water. The crisis has placed the spotlight on an issue impacting poor communities and communities of color who are the victims of environmental racism and government neglect.

#### Obama Tells Flint to Keep Kids and Hope Alive

By WDET 101.9 FM 05/05/16

President Obama told a crowd in Flint the nation has not forgotten their plight. The President said the water crisis in Flint is an example of similar problems facing cities across the country.

Mr. Obama arrived in Flint at the request of an 8-year-old girl who wrote him that she was suffering health problems from the lead contaminating the city's water supply. The President responded by not only traveling to the city, but he even took sips of filtered Flint water. He says he was assured by federal officials that the water is safe for all but young children and pregnant women. But the President said Flint is one of many urban areas with aged infrastructure badly in need of replacement. Mr. Obama said he's been criticized for overreaching with government programs, but that a crisis like the one in Flint demands federal intervention.

#### LeDuff: Flint and America's corroded trust

Charlie LeDuff, Detroit News 05/05/16 9:40 AM [reprint]

It's not just about pipes. And it's not just about a city in Michigan. It's been the subject of protests and debates, but if anything is improving in Flint it's hard for any of us on the ground to see. One of the city's lead pipes has been replaced for the benefit of the press, but more than 8,000 additional service lines are likely corroded and still leaching toxic lead. It took a mom, a pediatrician, and a professor in Virginia to discover Flint's children were being poisoned. It took cable television to get the nation to give a damn. Sabrina Hernandez bathes her granddaughter, Hazel, with bottled water.

#### Howes: Is accountability coming for Flint water crisis?

By Daniel Howes, Detroit News 05/05/16 7:53 AM

On the day President Barack Obama came to Flint and drank the water, the first shoe of legal accountability dropped in the long-running crisis of contaminated city water. Mike Glasgow, indicted for tampering with lead-testing results, pleaded no contest to a charge of willful neglect of duty. The lesser one-year misdemeanor ensures the Flint utilities administrator will cooperate with continuing local, state and federal investigations into the water contamination crisis.

#### Obama's sip leaves Michael Moore 'disappointed'

By Detroit News 05/04/16 11:50 PM

As President Barack Obama spoke Wednesday in Flint about the water crisis there, filmmaker and former resident Michael Moore again spoke out about the response to the Genesee County city's plight. In an interview with Chuck Todd on MSNBC's "MTP Daily," the Oscar winner said he was "glad" the president visited but "what we needed were hundreds of Army Corps of Engineers digging up 75,000 pipes or providing housing for the people that no longer want their children poisoned by this water." When asked about whether he thought Michigan Gov. Rick



Snyder can be part of the solution, Moore replied: “No, he’s the fox and you don’t ask the fox to repair the henhouse.”

#### White House on Obama drinking Flint water: 'The man was just thirsty'

By Jordan Fabian, The Hill 05/05/16 2:24 PM

President Obama wasn’t trying to pull a stunt when he took a sip of Flint, Mich., water during a speech there Wednesday, his top spokesman says. “At the speech, the man was just thirsty,” White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Thursday. Ahead of the trip, Earnest telegraphed that Obama would not stage a photo op drinking the Flint water, despite calls from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) and others to do so in order to demonstrate that filtered city water is safe to drink.

#### Watch protester get arrested outside where Obama speaks to Flint residents

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 05/04/16 7:41 PM

A man was arrested Wednesday as he protested outside where President Barack Obama was speaking to residents about the Flint water crisis. A large crowd of about 40 people remained across the street from Northwestern High School as Obama spoke to a crowd inside about the city's water crisis. Some people were protesting because of the water situation, while others just wanted to catch a glimpse of the president.

#### President Obama tells Flint residents: 'I've got your back'

By Paul Egan & Katrease Stafford, Detroit Free Press 05/04/16 7:43 PM

President Barack Obama had a straightforward message Wednesday for Flint residents: "I've got your back." The president delivered that message to a crowd of about 1,000 people -- many of them high school students — at Northwestern High School.

#### The Latest: Rough treatment of Gov. Snyder draws sympathy

AP for Washington Post 05/04/16 6:51 PM

There’s some sympathy for Gov. Rick Snyder after he was booed and heckled during brief remarks at a Flint high school. Lamar Boyd says it took “guts” for Snyder to appear before more

than 1,000 people and apologize for the lead-contaminated water. The 54-year-old Flint resident who's using bottled water says the negative reaction was "very over the top." Snyder's appearance Wednesday surprised the crowd, which was awaiting a speech by President Barack Obama. The Republican governor spoke for just a few minutes. When he said "government failed," some people shouted, "You failed!"

### Obama Gets Earful in Flint

By John T. Bennett, Roll Call 05/04/16 6:33 PM

Residents of Flint, Mich., let President Barack Obama hear their frustrations about their city's drinking water crisis. But they cheered when he asked for a glass drawn from the city's once-toxic system, and again when he took a sip. Obama used his trip Wednesday to meet with residents and deliver what at times sounded like a sermon about the role government should play in Americans' lives. He said government is an "extension" of every citizen, adding "our success depends on each other."

### 'I've Got Your Back,' Obama Tells Residents Of Flint, Mich., Amid Water Crisis

By Merrit Kennedy, NPR 05/04/16 6:28 PM

Obama met with community members in the crisis-stricken city, where a federal state of emergency has been declared as a result of lead leaching into the water supply.

### Obama in Flint: water crisis is a 'tragedy that never should have happened'

By Ryan Felton, The Guardian 05/04/16 6:04 PM

The Flint water crisis was a "tragedy that never should have happened" in the US, Barack Obama said Wednesday during his first visit to the city since evidence of lead contamination emerged last fall, while residents jeered Michigan's governor in his first public remarks before the community. "Flint's recovery is everybody's responsibility," the president told a crowd of 1,000 gathered inside a high school gymnasium. "And I will make sure that responsibility is met."

### Obama Drinks Water In Flint, Hits Republicans

By GVTC Communications 05/04/16

A combative President Barack Obama visited crisis-hit Flint, Michigan, Wednesday where he conspicuously sipped filtered water to prove it was potable and attacked "corrosive" Republican attitudes toward "big government." More than 8,000 children are believed to have consumed lead-contaminated water in the hardscrabble northern city, which has become a focus of the 2016 election campaign.

#### Obama drinks filtered city water in Flint to show it's safe

By Kevin Freking AP for Boston Globe 05/04/16

Showing support for the beleaguered residents of Flint, Michigan, President Barack Obama drank filtered city water on Wednesday to show that it is again safe following a lead-contamination crisis.

#### Michigan Senate OKs \$144 million more for Flint water crisis

By AP for WWMT West Michigan 05/04/16

The Michigan Senate has approved spending another \$144 million to address the water crisis in Flint, where residents have to use faucet filter or bottled water because of lead contamination. The emergency aid legislation that passed 34-3 Tuesday next goes to the House for consideration. It is the fourth round of funding being considered by lawmakers since the health disaster was confirmed seven months ago.

#### Michigan Senate OKs \$128 million more for Flint water crisis

By AP for Crain's Detroit Business 05/04/16 2:17 PM

The Michigan Senate has approved spending another \$128 million to address the water crisis in Flint, where residents have to use faucet filters or bottled water because of lead contamination. Meanwhile, a Flint municipal official struck a deal with prosecutors Wednesday, pledging cooperation in exchange for reduced charges as authorities continue investigating lead contamination of the impoverished Michigan city's drinking water supply. The emergency aid bill, passed 34-3, was sent to the House for consideration. A Senate committee also approved a fund transfer to expand government-provided health insurance coverage to 15,000 children and pregnant women in the Flint area starting next week.

## Other News

### Katie Couric Joins Lifetime's Flint Water Crisis Movie As Executive Producer

By Denise Petski, Deadline Hollywood 05/05/16 12:21 PM

The hard-hitting, fact-based drama will examine the events that led to the “toxic crime” committed against the residents of the town of Flint, Michigan. It is looking to focus not only on the politics and poor management that led to the poisoning of the water, but also on the human element of the residents who not only suffered, but whose voices were ignored.

### Flint official enters plea to neglect of duty as residents protest for change

By WEYI 05/05/16

A municipal official in Flint, Michigan, has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge in connection with the city's drinking water crisis. The state attorney general's office says Flint utilities administrator Mike Glasgow entered the plea Wednesday to one count of neglect of duty.

### Chalk outlines symbolize 12 killed by Legionnaires' outbreak in Flint

By Ryan Stanton, MLIVE 05/05/16 9:50 AM

On the same day President Barack Obama visited Flint to discuss the water crisis, citizens in Ann Arbor continued their regular weekly protest outside Rick Snyder's personal condo. The demonstration in front of the governor's downtown residence — a continuation of protests over the Flint water crisis happening every Wednesday for several weeks now — was small, but the message was hard to miss. This time, the busy Main Street sidewalk was filled with chalk outlines of bodies symbolizing 12 people killed by an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Flint.

## Opinions

### Flint And The Detroit Sick-Out: Is Michigan Botching Its Response?

By On Point with Tom Ashbrook 05/05/16 10:00 AM

The president was in Michigan yesterday, in Flint, telling that beleaguered city “I’ve got your

back,” after all the water woes we’ve heard about there. Meanwhile in Detroit, teachers walking off the job this week in almost all the city’s schools, complaining about mold and rats and afraid they won’t be paid. When cities and school districts get in trouble, it’s hard to get out. Michigan’s cities tell that story. This hour On Point: Detroit, Flint, and lessons from the troubles in Michigan.

### What the Flint Water Crisis Can Teach Us About Leadership

By Marya Besharov, Huffington Post 05/04/16 4:53 PM

As politicians, regulators, and the public struggle to account for the crisis over lead in Flint’s water system, attention has focused on who was responsible. But the problems in Flint are not only about lead. They are signs of a much deeper and more pervasive problem: mounting pressure to make public agencies and nonprofit organizations more efficient and cost effective. While it may be intended to improve performance, such pressure often undermines the collective social goals these organizations are designed to preserve and protect. Now more than ever, we need leaders who do not just meet cost imperatives or create operational efficiencies. We need leaders who can do so while also upholding the human and social purposes with which they are entrusted—through policies, practices, and indeed, their own behavior.

### Karma? Brown water shuts down state drinking fountains

By Tresa Baldas, Detroit Free Press 05/04/16 3:29 PM

In what may appear as irony — or perhaps even karma — state health department employees got a taste of Flint’s water troubles as they had to bring bottled water to work this week after a construction accident caused water in the building to run brown. The drinking fountains at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services headquarters in Lansing were shut down for two days following a construction accident on the first floor on Monday. Signs were posted above drinking fountains, urging employees not to drink from them. And coordinators on floors one through eight received an e-mail advising them of the potential drinking-water hazard.

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